

# Ask A Warden

by Lt. Liz Schwall

**Question:** I'm a California resident with a current license in California but I'll be moving this year to Nevada... Will my California license be valid until it expires at the end of the year? If I buy a California Lifetime License will it be honored in California even if I move out of state?

**Answer:** According to California Fish & Game Code section 70, if you have resided continuously in California for six months or more immediately prior to the date you obtain your California license, then you are a resident and your license is valid for the entire period stated on its face, even if you move out of state. The same is true for the lifetime license. Your lifetime license will be valid in California even if you become a resident of another state.

**Question:** My hunting club is having quite a bit of discussion about the possession limits regarding the number of birds a hunter may have in their freezer at home. The possession limit for doves, according to the regulations is double the daily bag limit. So if the

daily bag limit is 10 doves, the possession limit is 20.

Some of our members think that this possession limit of 20 only applies when birds are being transported but does not apply at a person's home. In other words a person can have as many as they like at their home. I interpret the law as saying you are only allowed to have twice the daily limit in your possession regardless of where you are.

**Answer:** You are interpreting the law correctly. The legal possession limit for doves is double the daily bag limit, period. It makes no difference whether or not you are transporting the birds or storing them in your freezer at home. There is no provision that allows an individual to have more than a legal possession limit of doves at any given point unless that individual is transporting, shipping, storing, or cleaning birds for another person and those birds are clearly marked with a tag or seal that identifies the owner.

**Question:** I am aware that when transporting doves from the field to



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my house, I need to leave one wing fully feathered so that the species can be identified. However, I thought that in the case of pheasants, it was OK to completely dress out the birds in the field or at the clubhouse... is it?

**Answer:** Actually, it's not. Here is what Fish & Game Code section 3660 has to say:

*"It is unlawful for any person to have in his possession the carcass, in such condition that the sex or species cannot be easily determined, of any pheasant while in the field or forest or while upon any highway, train, car, boat, or other conveyance when returning from any hunting trip with gun or other hunting equipment."*

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